



Nature Photo Times

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Interstate State Park St. Croix Falls Wisconsin

By Ron Winch

The beautiful St Croix river muscles its way through the basaltic gorge as kayakers play in the surging rapids. Overhead, a bald eagle circling on the rising warm air currents lets go with a scream. Majestic red and white pines squeeze their roots into seemingly solid basalt. Rock climbers test their skill on the sheer 150 foot rock faces to the tune of pitons being driven into almost invisible cracks. Tourists, enjoying an ice cream cone, feel the mighty surge of the great river, and, listening to the music of the wild river are transported back to an earlier time.

Somewhere in that lichen-rich landscape of tumbling rocks and mosses a nature photographer searches for a semblance of spring. He should have no trouble, for as the song goes, "Spring is bustin' out all over." The pines are in bloom. Their flowers, heavy with pollen, shed clouds of yellow pollen dust with each slight breeze. The fresh oak leaves, light green to red in color, stand guard over their dangling pollen flowers and the flowers of the wild plum flood the area with their seductive fragrance. In the seeps and along the creek the last skunk cabbage is beginning to fade. Higher ground yields bloodroot, hepatica, and Dutchmans' breeches in full bloom. Dry rocky outcrops may even yield a cactus.

Whitetailed deer are abundant in the park, however at this time of year they are not in the best of shape due to shedding. You may find a very pregnant doe worthy of a photo or two. Later, in May or June you might be fortunate to view and maybe photograph a young spotted fawn hidden in dense foliage or frolicking in an open field of flowers. The headquarters area usually draws a number red, gray and the seldom-seen fox squirrels that visit the bird feeders during the winter. You'll likely find the usual feeder birds here also. A keen observer may identify nearly 200 bird species in the park throughout the year and at least 75 species nest here,

including a dozen different warblers. Spring and fall migrations see many more birds moving through the park.

The flood plain forest is made up of primarily silver maple, black and green ash and American elm. You're likely to find a raccoon or barred owl in the large old trees. Several frog species inhabit the many ponds, also puddle ducks, muskrat and an occasional mink.

Surely the jewels of the river bottom are the vernal pools: those temporary pools that fill with snowmelt and early spring rains and later dry up. Here you will find a myriad of insect larvae. Salamanders, blue-spotted and tiger, come to the pools shortly after ice-out to breed and deposit eggs. Red-backed salamanders are also found here, but it is strictly a woodland salamander, and unlike other salamanders does not go to water to breed. You might be surprised to find shrimp in these pools. The fairy shrimp, semi-transparent and pinkish green in color, is only about an inch long and swims on its back by waving its appendages. As the pools dry up in summer the adults perish, but the eggs overwinter in the moist bottom and hatch after ice-out the following spring.

Fifteen feet away, a scarlet tanager settles onto a silver maple branch and feeds on tender young insects – and here I am with a macro lens on the camera. Oh well, nature photography is as much – maybe more – about nature as it is about photography.

If you've never been here, give it a try. Almost three square miles of park, miles of trails and as varied a terrain as you could ask for. Don't forget good sturdy shoes or boots.

Maybe I'll see you there.

**Minnesota Nature
Photography Club
March Salon Scores
Judge: Mariann Cyr**

| Photographer | Title | Score |
|------------------|-----------------------------|-------|
| Ron Cleveland | Sandhill Crane (W) | 8 |
| Jerry Hogeboom | Swan Flight (W) | 8 |
| Don Nadreau | Winter Sunset | 8 |
| John Pennoyer | Bellering Bull (W) | 8 |
| Dean Rehpohl | Sad Daze | 8 |
| Keith Nason | Sunset Loon (W) | 8 |
| John Anderson | Badlands Family II | 8 |
| Dave Ellenbecker | Early Riser | 8 |
| Karl Fiegenschuh | Flycatcher (W) | 8 |
| Jerry Hogeboom | That Bugs Me | 8 |
| Don Nadreau | Eastern Waterfall | 8 |
| John Pennoyer | Napping Goslings (W) | 8 |
| Dean Rehpohl | White Patience | 8 |
| Alan Schulz | Oystercatcher feeding (W) | 8 |
| Don Specht | Spring Song (W) | 8 |
| Dave Vichich | Head Butt (W) | 8 |
| Roger Williams | Reddish Egret (W) | 8 |
| | | |
| Dave Ellenbecker | First Image | 9 |
| Jean McDonough | Four Lions Looking | 9 |
| Alan Schulz | Rockhopper Reflections (W) | 9 |
| Ron Cleveland | Aubry Falls II | 9 |
| Jean McDonough | Lilac Breasted Roller No. 5 | 9 |
| | | |
| Eric Baker | Loon Dancing #2 (W) | 10 |
| Roger Williams | Osprey (W) | 10 |
| Larry Weinman | Trumpeter Swan #11 (W) | 10 |

This summer, the Split Rock Arts Program is pleased to host the following photography workshops and retreats:

Digital Nature Photography
Instructor: Craig Blacklock
Cloquet Forestry Center (July 18-23)

Working with nature as a subject, this retreat offers serious amateurs and professionals an intensive, step-by-step guide to the best methods of capturing, and then transforming, photographs to realize a personal vision.

Other photography offerings that may be of interest include:

The Emotional Landscape: At River's Edge
Instructor: Doug Beasley
Twin Cites campus (June 27-July 2)

This workshop is not about making "pretty" pictures or "postcard-like" records of nature. It is about making a deeper, more authentic connection to the land and water, and learning to express that connection through photography.

Zen and the Art of Photography
Instructor: Doug Beasley
Cloquet Forestry Center (July 11-16)

Revitalize your photography and deepen your artistic vision while exploring relationships with your subject, your camera, and your self. This retreat offers the opportunity to rethink what it means to see; cultivate simplicity in order to produce more insightful photographs; and explore photography as an expressive, rather than a technical, pursuit.

The Creation of Meaning: Using Digital Technology to Produce a Book
Instructor: Douglas Holleley
Twin Cites campus (June 13-18)

This workshop is for photographers, designers, and visual artists (and teachers!) from any number of disciplines who have a collection of existing images and would like to publish them in book form. The workshop centers on the idea that the editing and subsequent presentation of visual work is no less than the creation of meaning.

A complete roster of Workshops on the Twin Cities campus and Retreats at the Cloquet Forestry Center, including descriptions and instructor biographies, may be found on the Split Rock Web site or you may prefer to download the Summer 2010 Catalog.

All offerings may be taken noncredit or for undergraduate or graduate credit. On-site accommodations and scholarships are available. Scholarship deadline is April 19. Registration is ongoing.

Questions? Please e-mail the Split Rock office or call 612-625-1976.

New Salon submission guidelines:

The following will go into effect for the May Salon

Deadline for submitting images and other instructions

<http://www.minnesotanature.org/Pages/salondigital.html>

Requirements for Preparing and Submitting Digital Images
E-Mail your one or two images to salon@minnesotanature.org before 6:00 PM the Sunday before the meeting - the earlier the better to allow for the proper archiving and presentation of your image.

*Digital images need to be in the following format to be

accepted:

- ☒ Computer adjustments to any image must comply with [PSA rules](#) for "Digital Images"
- ☒ JPEG file format (.jpg)
- ☒ Image size; minimum 1024 pixels, maximum 1280 pixels along the longest dimension.
- ☒ Use the sRGB color space since that is how they will be displayed. If you are not familiar with the concept of color space, don't worry about it.
- ☒ File name for each image should be your personal 4-digit identification number* followed by a 12-letter image title. Add a (W) when the image complies with the PSA definition of [authentic wildlife](#). For example:
1903 Dawn Swans (W).jpg - First image for member 903
2903 MarshMargld.jpg - Second image for member 903
- ☒ Please type your two filenames, each on a new line, in the body of your email. Attach - do not embed - the images to a regular email message and email to salon@minnesotanature.org. The subject line should contain something like "Images for October salon".
- ☒ If you do not receive a confirmation email then please bring your images on a CD-ROM or USB memory key to the meeting.

Submissions which do not comply with the above requirements hinder file management and could be rejected or delayed entry to a salon until requirements are met.

**If you would like to be assigned a four-digit identification number, do not understand these requirements or require help to comply with them, please email your name and phone number to salon@minnesotanature.org and someone will contact you.*



2010 TCACCC INTERCLUB - Club Digital

| <u>Place</u> | <u>Club</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--------------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| First | Minnesota Nature Photography Club | 236 |
| Second | Crosstown Camera Club | 234 |
| Third | St Paul Camera Club | 230 |
| Fourth | Western Wisconsin Photography Club | 227 |
| Fifth | North Metro Photo Club | 226 |
| Sixth | Minneapolis Photographic Society | 225 |
| Seventh | Women's Color Photo Club | 221 |
| Eighth | West Photo Club | 220 |
| Nineth | 3M Club Camera Club | 219 |

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Editor: Jay Olson-Goude, 651-699-3048,
jolson-goude@msn.com
2062 Berkeley Avenue
Saint Paul MN 55105-1202

President: Jean McDonough 763-574-1450
mcd30@msn.com
Vice Pres.: Lil Polley 952-474-7375
polley28@mchsi.com
Treasurer: Don Nadreau 763-377-4589
don.nadreau@gmail.com
Secretary: Linda Nygren 651-778-0340
stereogal@gmail.com

Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month, September through May

6:00 PM - Set-up and Social Time
6:30 PM - Announcements and Business
6:45 PM - Program
7:45 PM - Nature Salon (Competition and Judge's Comments).

Meetings are held at:

REI
750 West American Blvd
Bloomington, MN 55420

April Meeting Wednesday April 21, 2010

Our April presentation will be

Bill Handsaker, member of Minnesota Nature Photography Club, has traveled the world extensively and one of his favorite places on this planet is the Southwestern portion of the U.S. which will be the subject of his slide program on April 21st.

The Colorado Plateau is a geologically unique region that covers a large portion of Colorado, Utah, New Mexico and Arizona.

The federal government has designated 23 places in this strange landscape of stone as national parks, monuments, recreation

areas, or landmarks. This show will take you to both the familiar and the unfamiliar places in the plateau.

Upcoming Meeting Programs:

May program:

“Owl photography” - Presenter: John Anderson

Minnesota Nature Club member John Anderson, spent three years chronicling a specific Great Horned owl pair and their offspring in the Twin Cities area.

His program will describe some of the challenges associated with photographing owls in the wild, how to locate owls and their seasonal habits.

His images also depict a range of owl behaviors some of which are rarely seen by birders and photographers.

John is a regular contributor to "Minnesota Birding" and his photographs have been used for educational purposes by the DNR in a couple of states and the National Park Service.

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